



They're There For Us,  
We Work to Ensure  
They're There For Them





## Bringing Military Families Together

### *How it all started...*

#### Two Marines with a cause...

After twenty-six years of independent contracting as a network engineer and successful business owner, we sold off controlling interest in two businesses and exited three global product groups in late 2017.

I contacted my father, since he was already retired to find out what exactly retired folks do with all their 'free time'. His response "work", hmm ok...

I gathered the family together and started down two paths, create a business that helps entrepreneurs secure working capital and use the profits from that venture to support a worthwhile cause.

My father and I kicked around several ideas of how we could contribute to our military family. During the course of our conversations...

#### A world changed forever...

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, three days after my 45<sup>th</sup> birthday, my father passed away unexpectedly. My mentor, the man that believed in me no matter what, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Marine, was gone forever.

Over the course of the next several months, my family and I found our way forward, Stars Forward. Build an organization who's primary purpose is to get soldiers and their families home when life happens.

Our focus is to create an environment that is dedicated to gratitude and not charity, to demonstrate 'more than words'.

What was once a opportunity to give back to our brothers and sisters in uniform is now a MISSION to pay tribute to my fathers memory.

Sincerely,

### A Warriors Burden

Reasons 'as to why' a person enlists in the United States Military are as varied as the people that join our armed services. One universal answer is "family", to honor family members that have previously served, protection of their family's freedoms, or a better life for their own family.

Regardless of an individual's reason for joining our military, each person is signing up for a life filled with challenges and sacrifice. Some challenges will help define them as a person through strength and courage, others will be traumatic and life lasting.

Some of the sacrifices that accompany a military lifestyle are often financially related. A father that misses the birth of his child, a mother that misses her child's graduation, a soldier that can't get home for the holidays or a son that misses his father's funeral, all because they could not afford the travel expenses. The sad thing is these sacrifices are considered part of being in the military, but with your help we can change that!

These sacrifices effect not only our soldiers but their mothers, daughters, fathers, sons, brothers, and sisters. Each of those family members knowing that it is an honor and a privilege to serve in our military, but they are left feeling distraught over the fact their loved ones cannot be with them during times of family emergencies or celebrations.

**Each Stars Forward Program was created specifically to address some of the top challenges associated with a military lifestyle.**

From Travel Assistance to helping surviving spouses plan for the future when faced with tragedy. There are many obstacles our military families face on a daily basis, being able to gather with loved one's during life's defining moments should never be one of them.

To learn more about how you can help our everyday heroes or additional information on our many great programs, please visit <http://www.StarsForward.org>





## A History of Giving

With over 40,000 American charities with military-related missions it is difficult to identify which one's are worthy of your donation. Out of the top 84 charities in the country, none are primarily focused on getting soldiers and their families home when life happens.



Stars Forward's primary focus is to bring soldiers and their families home during times of family emergency as well as celebrations.

Giving money to provide our Soldiers a better quality of life is a great way to say Thank You for the quality of life they provide to us every day.



## Top Military Related Organizations:

### Wounded Warrior Project

Mission: To assist service members injured after 9/11

Donations: \$226 million

Percent spent on direct aid: 72 / Percent of fundraising costs: 22

### Homes for Our Troops

Mission: Build specially equipped homes for injured service members

Donations: \$24 million

Percent spent on direct aid: 88 / Percent of fundraising costs: 6

### Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Mission: Financial assistance, interest-free loans, educational scholarships

Donations: \$23 million

Percent spent on direct aid: 86 / Percent of fundraising costs: 4

### Operation Homefront

Mission: Financial and recovery assistance for wounded service members

Donations: \$45 million

Percent spent on direct aid: 92 / Percent of fundraising costs: 4

Each organizations primary focus is unique and all excel within their own core competency. We feel a soldier and their family's ability to return home during some of life's defining moments, should never be a secondary priority or increase their financial burdens.



# HONORING THEIR COURAGE

## Stars Forward

- ★ Mission: Professional and financial resources to counteract the challenges associated with a military lifestyle
- ★ Annual Donation Goal: \$50M
- ★ 5yr Projection: Percent spent on our programs: 93 / Percent spent on fundraising: 4
- ★ Long-Term Objectives: Sustainability, Low Operational Overhead, Positive Impact
- ★ Short-Term Challenges: Raising Awareness & Obtaining National Support

## OUR PROGRAMS

### WELCOME HOME

Our Global Travel Assistance Program is away to give a gift that words alone can never achieve. We work with the military family support groups to allow us to be there for them when they deserve it the most. With coverage that includes; transportation, accommodations, vehicle rental and point-of-sale transactions we can alleviate the financial burdens our military families face when life happens. Covering items like; family emergencies (Death, Medical, Ecological Disaster), progeny birth, scholastic visitation & graduations, social events (weddings, religious holidays and milestones) our military families can enjoy life's special moments without the sacrifice.

### SEEING STARS SMILE

Every parent wants the best for their child, that is a given. We want them to be confident and secure in who they are as a young adults. That is why Stars Forward has decided to help out in a few key areas that have been linked to raising a child's self esteem. First would be braces or dental implants, you cannot put a price on a great smile. Second would be contacts or glasses, being confident enough to raise your head and make eye contact with someone conveys a sense of self worth. Because giving your child a positive sense of self is one of the greatest gifts you can give them.

### SHARING IS CARING

One of the most challenging aspects of military life is when a spouse is notified of the unthinkable. Often times they are unprepared for the long-term impact of life without their soldier. We recognize there is nothing anyone can do or say at a time like this. Our advisors understand and are here to lend a helping hand; from estate planning, legal assistance, and general accounting assistance, they are here to ease the burden just a little and help prepare for the road ahead.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our military youth are amazing young people, they answer the call right along side their parents. Their sacrifices are sometimes more challenging than the ones their parents make. Changing schools every couple of years, leaving friends time and time again, starting over again and again.

The Stars Forward Youth Outreach & Development Program was created to help our military youth become part of new communities. By helping to sponsor Local Community Programs like; Girl Scouts, YMCA, Sporting Associations, Military Cadet Programs, and many others, we can help our military kids feel like part of their communities with each and every new adventure.

## DONATE TODAY

Stars Forward, Inc is an Ohio Nonprofit Corporation  
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[www.StarsForward.Org](http://www.StarsForward.Org)